

HOLMES [00:31:50] Senator Tim Scott, welcome to Ruthless.

SCOTT [00:31:52] Well, thank you very much. It's good to be on the show.

HOLMES [00:31:55] Well, listen, we are so happy that you joined us. We think you are among the most thoughtful, intelligent members of the United States Senate. And I don't pass out compliments like that to everybody. I've been around long enough to be pretty cynical about senators and politicians. I'm just constantly impressed by the work that you and your staff does on a day in and day out basis. And I want to start there because you wrote an op-ed this week in The Washington Post, and we don't always advocate that our our listeners read The Washington Post. I want you to know that. But in this case, it is a must read. And this op-ed by you is entitled "Let's Set the Record Straight on Woke Supremacy and Racism."

SCOTT [00:32:41] One of the challenges that we have when you have sound bite opportunities on TV is you have a sound bite opportunity. It's just not very long. So if you think about something as important as discrimination, racism and the roots of it, you can't go very far without touching on the really three and a half centuries of America's history. As provocative as it is on the issue of race and oppression and discrimination, slavery, the original sin. But when you look into the future, it's undeniable that if it was wrong for you as a white guy to discriminate against me, then it is equally as wrong for me to discriminate against you. This new woke culture seems to reinforce in then codify in law that the theory of an eye for an eye is the way that we should live our lives. And I'm a person who believes that there's a better choice, that there's simply a better option. That option is for us to work on a great opportunity society that creates a fair playing field for everyone. And unfortunately, if you look at the latest COVID package, what you don't walk away with, walk, walk away from it is some theory of fairness. You can't first give \$86 billion dollars to labor unions, to pension plans that have overpromised and under delivered and call that fair to those people who are paying the taxes. You can't ask for the average American family to pay \$22,000 to provide COVID relief – air quotes – on a package that is a progressive payment plan and not about COVID relief. You certainly cannot codify into law that it's OK for us to help all struggling farmers except white ones. Having been on the wrong end of racism most of my life, the last thing that ever could make sense to me is making it legal to discriminate against anyone, because if you make it legal to discriminate against one race of people, you have certainly made it legal to discriminate against all other races that that fall out of favor whenever that happens. And so listening to my friends on the left about this, about wokeism, I just fundamentally disagree with their approach to solving the problems of our nation. We have problems, but let's not add wokeism to the list of problems.

HOLMES [00:35:24] Yeah, that's the thing that sort of is mind boggling to me is how you have been able to stay so patient and so calm about a political environment that ultimately you watch Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, go to a press conference with kente cloths and all of a sudden claim to speak for the African-American community. And that's got to just frustrate you to no end.

SCOTT [00:35:56] Well, there's no question that when you – let me just be blunt, Josh, as far as I rarely am. Virtue signaling is one of the worst concepts for real justice I've seen. And having the right clothing on – the right garb – on should not make me feel better about what you or anyone else has done to me. The way I look at it is that the greatest supporters of you know, of the liberal left, now – the great thing about thing about Hollywood, think about their construct around labor bosses. And here's the one thing you

can think about. Go back to 1931 with the Davis-Bacon Act and you'll come to the conclusion very quickly that labor wanted to eliminate competition. And most of the competition it wanted to eliminate was small black businesses winning federal government contracts. So they codified in law this concept of a minimum wage that must be paid to all employees to get rid of black businesses. It's that simple. Think, if you will, about how often Hollywood depicted African-Americans in the most vile, subhuman or dehumanizing ways. And now you see this flurry of TV commercials suggesting that everybody is equal now. Well, for 80 years, you said that Tim Scott and people that look like me, we were criminals. We were the least of these. We were the forgotten, the disenfranchized. They reinforce this image on screen after screen after screen after screen for 8 decades. And all of a sudden an epiphany occurs and they are now going to tell me what I should think about myself. Wow.

HOLMES [00:37:55] That's tough.

SCOTT [00:37:56] It is just fascinating, frustrating and absolutely outside this universe, I live it.

HOLMES [00:38:02] Can we still have these conversations in the way that you – I mean, you put yourself out there and I just applaud your bravery because you keep going at it. You keep having candid, honest conversations. And time and again, you're met with huge intolerance on the left [inaudible] racism, outright racism. Can we still have this conversation?

SCOTT [00:38:33] You know, with that, I've often said without civility in the public forum, the size and the grandeur of our dreams, our aspirations, and our ideas begin to shrink. They shrivel because we need civil discourse. They need to be able to debate the greatest issues of our time. We need to be able to look to the future and say that here is a problem. And if we don't have a public forum that is fit for disagreement, for strong debate, we will not be able to solve the greatest problems this world has ever seen because those problems have not yet arrived. And when that day comes, it has to be America, the city on the hill, a light that shines beyond our borders, telling people that this is the way of due north. Losing that position levels not the playing field, but levels this notion of hope and opportunity for the world and not just here at home.

HOLMES [00:39:42] Oh, man. That is music to my ears. I agree with every single word that you said. So let's transition to something that's currently happening, because I think I've found great amusement in Senate Democrats talking about the filibuster as a Jim Crow relic while also forgetting that we're like 7 months removed from the filibustering your police reform bill. How are they squaring that circle?

SCOTT [00:40:15] Well, they must have very, very short memories number one, because the truth of the matter is that if you just go to the most recent past, the most effective use of the filibuster was to stop racial progress in the justice system on my justice side. Let me say that a little slower, just in case you have some liberals listening. The filibuster was used to stop resources like the duty to intervene. Like de-escalation training that could have helped Kenosha, Wisconsin, from actually happening. It stopped – between coupling the Justice Act and President Trump's executive order, we could have had corresponders, perhaps funded and prepared to deal with those folks who are unstable mentally, but outside of that, not a threat. In other words, the literal dollars that could deescalate and save lives was blocked by the filibuster on the left – not because of its racist past, because I'm not sure that it has one, but because they were using any tools necessary to stop the

Republican Party and my legislation from being seen in the eyes of victims of real discrimination differently. They did not want the Republican Party and my legislation to be the difference maker on a host of issues from body cameras to no-knock warrants to the chokehold to gathering more data to best practices nationwide. They stopped all of that from becoming law. And now, somehow now, the filibuster is a relic from a racist past. Well, A: it's been around forever. And B: the civil rights era saw Republicans and Democrats come together with more Republicans than Democrats voting for civil rights legislation in the 60s. So the truth be told, Josh, can I just say this quickly?

HOLMES [00:42:46] Of course.

SCOTT [00:42:49] If I can get the general public to think that the Republican Party is racist, then nothing the party says – nothing the party does – will matter. Because if I believe you don't see me as equal and human, I won't think of you at all. The Democrats' strategy has less to do with solving problems of our racial past and more to do with solving the problem of power in the future. That's what the filibuster debate is really about. And they will rue the day they get rid of that.

SCOTT [00:43:27] Yeah, well, I want to get into that, but to your point, explicitly, they're getting rid of it for H.R. 1, right? This is not about an improvement to any lives in America. It's about trying to [inaudible] an election system that gives them better chances every November.

SCOTT [00:43:45] When you look at H.R. 1 or S.1, one of the things you have to walk away with is asking scratching your head. Now, I don't know if I agree that every 16-year-old is ready to be a participant in our election process. I'm pretty sure that old Tim Scott, as good of a football player as he was, was not ready for a civics lesson or the advanced citizenship that is required here in America. Therefore, when you're able to serve in our nation's military, I think you should have the right to vote. When you can put your life on the line for this country, you should have the right to determine the future of this country. So I think of it is very, very simple. This is nothing more than a power grab – taking power from the states and nationalizing it. And then, of course, they're going to add states to make sure that they have this new majority that is bullet proof. Once they change the law, they must change the system of who votes in order to keep that system in place. That does not sound like racial progress in any way, shape or form. That sounds like a liberal take-over of America's future. It's one of the reasons why I consistently say their goal is to fundamentally transform what it means to be an American.

HOLMES [00:45:17] Yeah, there's no question that is absolutely right. And they're trying to stack the decks so sufficiently against any sort of conservative that it's impossible to compete. I mean, all the various reforms contained within H.R. 1, S.1, but ultimately what doing away with the filibuster means in terms of making D.C. a state, right? Which ultimately – they'd lead you to believe that's about voting rights for people. It's not about voting rights for people. It's about two more Democratic senators. That's what it's about.

SCOTT [00:45:46] 100 percent. The one thing they do not do on the left is waste a crisis. I mean, the COVID relief package is 9 percent COVID health care, 1 percent vaccine, and 90 percent progressive wish-list. I mean, they refused. So we had five COVID relief packages that passed under Republican control of the Senate, Republican in the White House, with 90 votes in the Senate, the first relief package. By Democrats, that is not a relief package was voted purely by partisans, because when you no longer are focused on the relief of people suffering because of COVID and you're only focusing on the future of

liberal policies, you kind of lose all the Republicans. This is kind of simple common sense from my perspective. [inaudible] I think this is common sense.

HOLMES [00:46:44] So we know we've got to fight them with everything we've got on their agenda. But the one thing I ask you, I don't ask everybody this, but I think you're sort of uniquely positioned because of how you view the world and your sort of optimism, in addition to beating back bad liberal ideas that set us back culturally, economically and everything else, how do we turn this around? How do we get back to arguing for optimistic conservative principles and a clear [inaudible]?

SCOTT [00:47:22] You know, Josh, great question, and the answer is kind of simple. My synopsis on the answer is we have to go where we're not invited. We literally have to start campaigning and marketing in areas that we've never thought of before. Because what has happened is if you watch MSNBC – and unfortunately it's on the my gym, I wish they would just turn that TV off, but they won't. I've asked the manager and the manager said seriously dude? We have FOX too. I'm like, well, we need Fox and Fox Business then to make up for MSNBC being on the screen way too much. But if you watch MSNBC, you never, ever hear anything other than those guys over there are racist. The black ones and the white ones are all racist. I love my momma. I'm not sure why that's such a surprise to people. I don't know. But literally, here's what we have to think to ourselves. We have to find a way to get into that space where people of good intent are being brainwashed, frankly, because they're having this drip system that just drips on them all day long that Republicans are racist, Republicans are racist, Republicans are racist. When you hear that all the time – here's what you forget by the way, Josh. Here's what you have to forget in order to believe that those concepts or that mind set: number one, you have to forget the fact that under the last three Democrat presidents, they were unable to make funding for historically black colleges and universities permanent. But under the Republican administration, we made it permanent. We also, according to the head of the United Negro College Fund, took it to a record level of funding. We also focused our attention on the research on rare blood diseases and specifically on the research for sickle cell anemia. One hundred percent black disease. I'm talking about, the racist party, by the way according to our friends on the left. We took the unemployment rate for the first time in the history of this country to under six percent for African-Americans. At the same time, we took the unemployment rate down, we took the labor force participation rate within the black community, we took that up, which is really hard to do, by the way, because, as you know, there's typically an inverse relationship. It's easier to take your unemployment down as long as your labor force participation rate stays down. But when you're – I'm probably getting a little too wonky here – let me just continue on. We saw a [inaudible] go to the lowest level since 1959 – the first time we started recording. We've never seen poverty this low. The wage inequality gap, it started to shrink, why? Because President Trump's economic policies creating seven million jobs, bringing two thirds of those jobs into the households of women, brown people, and black people actually lowers that income inequality first. Second thing that it did was the lowest quintile – the bottom quintile – had a 5 percent increase in income, while the top was around 2.7. So in other words, free market policies and a responsible level of regulations, the coupling of those two drove pressure to the bottom where the wages went up faster than at the top. That closes the income inequality gap. And because we had a 41% black homeownership rate in 2016, we have a 46.4 percent at the end of 2019 heading into the pandemic, we also see the wealth gap go down because the difference between black wealth and white wealth predominantly is in the equity in a home. So when you start seeing the numbers go up in the black community homeownership, you see the numbers go down from a wealth gap. If we solve the issue of education, we now have the great opportunity party. Full speed ahead. So we do two

things, the way we answer your question, how do we get things on the right track? And B, we demonstrate to a watching world that not only is the Republican Party not racially insensitive, we are the party of progress. Not progressive party, but the party of progress for all Americans, because we did that at the same time we lowered Asian unemployment rate to under 3%, we lowered Hispanic unemployment rate to 4.2%, we lowered white unemployment to 3.1%, we lowered female unemployment to a 70 year low. So the market is the fastest way for us to get parity, not mandates around equity, but mandates around opportunity. We want those who put in the same thing to get out the same thing. We don't want an unequal distribution. If you put in differently, you should get out differently.

HOLMES [00:52:20] Talk about a five tool player, senator, you just made an economic lesson you know, pretty uplifting. And it's something worth listening to. That's tough. That's tough to do.

SCOTT [00:52:34] I failed civics and I like math. So I try to put the two together.

HOLMES [00:52:38] You did it. And I can't believe you did it because it's basically nobody who can. Ross Perot tried. And that's kind of like the last guy, I think, that had any success at it. But what I just heard from you makes a ton of sense. I love it. I got three important questions, though, that I got to get to you. I wish we could spend two hours talking about all of this, but I got to get to these 3 because they cut to the soul of every politician. And these are revealing things here. So your last meal on Earth, Tim Scott, What would it be?

SCOTT [00:53:09] A last meal on Earth? Let's start, of course, with an appetizer of a order of french fries from McDonald's. My entree, of course, would be the largest burger double beef patty with cheddar cheese in the middle, melted it in the middle, of course. It would be followed with dessert. It would be my Haagen-Dazs butter pecan ice cream that I'm now allergic to after 50 years of living, I became allergic to ice cream. God has a good sense of humor. And I would finish it off with that ice cream. So I haven't had it in five years.

HOLMES [00:53:43] You don't have to worry about an allergic reaction at that point, right?

SCOTT [00:53:46] Yes. Yes. You're on your way out.

HOLMES [00:53:52] Awesome. All right. So if you were not involved in politics, what would you be doing with your life?

SCOTT [00:53:58] You know, I would be a more of an evangelist. I would love to travel the country and the world sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I think there's a lot of life lessons that our country was built upon. The Judeo-Christian foundation of this nation is why people who don't believe in either faith or Christianity or the Jewish faith, you still have a place – we are supposed to be tolerant of people who are not like ourselves, that is embedded in the founding fathers' perspective of this nation. As flawed as they may have been, they founded us upon the right rock and that rock does not move. So if I could share some of the biblical principles around economics, around faith, around hope and love, I think it would be a life worth living.

HOLMES [00:54:45] Beautifully said. All right. So here's the third and final question: what motivates you more – the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat?

SCOTT [00:54:56] Absolutely the thrill of victory.

HOLMES [00:54:58] All right, all right, but that's good, because here's the thing. Everybody comes at these things differently. McConnell was on the program on Tuesday and he tried to convince me this thrill of victory for him. But I know, like, he celebrates his victories for about 30 seconds and starts working to try to prevent the next loss. You are, I think, one of the most transparently obvious thrill of victory guys I've ever met.

SCOTT [00:55:25] I love the victory. Listen, I actually love it so much that I root for teams that one day will win. So I keep my thrill of victory waiting for next season. Whether I'm a Gamecock fan or a Dallas Cowboys fan. Well, I love the thrill of victory. I have to look back 25 years to remember a Super Bowl or frankly, an 11-win season about a decade ago for my Gamecocks. But I love winning. I do love winning. And I don't like changing horses in the middle of the race. This is a lifelong race. And we're going win another Super Bowl. I know we are. 2032 [inaudible].

HOLMES [00:56:04] With with leaders like Senator Tim Scott, I feel like the Republican Party is going to be doing an awful lot of winning. I can't thank you enough for the time that you spent with us, but more importantly, the work that you're doing, which everybody follow what he's doing on a day to day basis, it's incredible. It's really helpful for conservatism, our party, ultimately, our country. So thanks for joining us today.

SCOTT [00:56:25] Thank you.